

Improved French-Gulf ties reported

US, Jan. 3 (R)—Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncet today announced improved French economic and industrial cooperation with Gulf states, including possible compensation for any oil shocks resulting from loss of Iranian supplies. Reporting to the cabinet meeting on talks he had with Kuwaiti and United Arab Emirates leaders late last month, he said his trip "confirmed the emergence of views on the situation in the Middle East and enabled laying of a new basis for further expansion of economic, industrial and cultural cooperation between France and those states." During Francois-Poncet's visit to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates oil minister Mansur bin Zayed Al Nahyan pledged that the UAE would attempt with oil-exporting Gulf states to compensate for any French oil shortage resulting from the loss of supplies from Iran.

JORDAN TIMES

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Boumedienne's heir named on Jan. 25

ALGIERS, Jan. 3 (R)—Algeria's acting head of state Rabah Bitat today fixed Jan. 25 for the opening of a congress of the National Liberation Front party which is expected to name a successor to the late President Houari Boumedienne. Mr. Bitat announced the date when he formally installed a commission to organise the congress, the official news agency APS said. It is thought that a new president could be elected before Mr. Bitat's 45-day interim leadership officially expires on Feb. 9. President Boumedienne died on Dec. 27.

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6-hour cabinet meeting decides

Egypt is ready to resume peace talks

CAIRO, Jan. 3. (R)—Egypt announced today it was ready to resume efforts to sign a peace treaty with Israel.

It reiterated that any treaty be based on a comprehensive peace and not a separate peace.

Ypt's decision, announced by Minister Mustafa Khalil in a six-hour cabinet meeting, did not appear to advance by attempts to restart the stalemate talks.

President Anwar Sadat has said it is time that Egypt would resume the talks but only on the basis of a comprehensive settlement, meaning that a timetable for a self-rule on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip be linked to any bilateral treaty.

Israel refuses to agree to this. Khalil told reporters he informed U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance of Egypt's view within the next two days.

He would then be up to Mr. Sadat to decide how to establish a dialogue between Egypt and Israel.

He said contacts established by Vance were fruitful, then negotiations could be resumed, Khalil added.

Khalil said the Egyptian decision was based on the outcome of a cabinet meeting last week. Details of this meeting were not made official.

He said officials have interpreted the outcome of the Israeli cabinet meeting as a mild softening of its position because the cabinet agreed to discuss self-rule for Palestinians.

He rejected the idea of a timetable which Egypt insists on. Khalil said it was agreed in talks when he met Mr. Vance in Jerusalem last month that the two sides would study the outcome of the talks in the Belgian city and send their views to Mr.

Vance "irrespective of the other's point of view."

Dr. Khalil said three-quarters of today's Egyptian cabinet meeting had been devoted to foreign policy and the drafting of a statement on Egypt's position on the peace talks.

He gave an overall impression that no major breakthrough was in prospect immediately.

It would then be up to Mr. Vance to decide whether to contact each side, come to the Middle East for another round of talks with both sides or call another meeting similar to that in Brussels, he said.

Dr. Khalil said Mr. Vance might also choose to meet separately with him. "I'm leaving all the alternative choices up to Mr. Cyrus Vance," he said.

The official Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported today that Egyptian ambassadors to Arab countries are scheduled to have a three-day conference in Cairo next week during which Iran and the Horn of Africa are expected to be discussed.

MENA said the conference, which is to be held next Monday under the Foreign Minister Butros Butros Gali, will discuss among other things the situations in a number of countries surrounding the Arab area and foreign intervention attempts in the Arab World.

The agency did not elaborate, but this appeared to be a reference to developments in Iran and the Horn of Africa.

The conference would also discuss the Arab situation in general, Egypt's bilateral relations with each Arab country and the problems facing Egyptian communities in Arab countries, MENA said.

Officials report improved security in Lebanon

BEIRUT, Jan. 3 (R)—Lebanese and Arab Deterrent Force (ADF) authorities said today the security situation in the country had improved recently.

"Immediate measures will be taken to complete the removal of the remaining armed manifestations," the officials said in a statement issued after a meeting chaired by President Elias Sarkis.

The session was attended by Prime Minister Selim Al Hoss as well as by the commanders of the ADF and the Lebanese internal security forces.

The statement said the meeting reviewed progress towards removal of the "armed manifestations" in all regions of Lebanon where regular forces were stationed.

"A tangible improvement has been noted in this respect," the statement said.

The government has drawn up a plan to establish security and has entrusted its implementation jointly to the Syrian-dominated ADF and Lebanese forces.

In Lebanon, residents said Palestinian commandos fired at Israeli military aircraft which flew low over two refugee camps and a port of Tyre in southern Lebanon.

Israeli warships were also sighted off the South Lebanon coast, Palestinian sources said.

Cases at refugee camp schools run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency were suspended and students sent home, local residents said.

The commandos and their Lebanese leftist allies were reported yesterday to have been placed on alert after Israeli gunboats were sighted off Tyre earlier in the day.

Israeli warplanes flew over the whole southern part of the country yesterday on what Palestinian sources believed was a reconnaissance mission.

There has been a marked increase in Israeli military activity in the south recently. Israeli aircraft bombed and strafed guerrilla positions in South Lebanon last month, following commando attacks in Jerusalem.

In Tel Aviv a military spokesman announced tonight that Israeli gunboats shelled suspected Palestinian guerrilla bases near Tyre on the southern Lebanese coast on Sunday night.

The raid was carried out "in accordance with Israeli policy to strike against bases used by the terrorists to launch attacks against Israel," the spokesman said.

The spokesman did not identify the exact target and gave no further details about the naval attack.

Higher Physical Fitness Council to be created

AMMAN, Jan. 3 (JNA)—His Majesty King Hussein today ordered the creation of a Higher Physical Fitness Council.

"The purpose of this council," the King said in a letter addressed to Prime Minister Mudar Badran, "is to formulate an integrated plan aimed at achieving a comprehensive renaissance in the fields of physical fitness and sports for the entire population."

The council, to be chaired by Mr. Badran himself, would include representatives of the ministries of education and youth and culture, the armed forces, the country's two universities and other specialised organisations, the King said.

Iraq denies report it executed soldiers

BAGHDAD, Jan. 3 (R)—Iraq today denied a Kuwaiti newspaper report that 18 communist soldiers were executed in Iraq last month for forming party cells in the armed forces.

A ministry of information spokesman said the report, published today in the newspaper Al-Siyassah, was completely baseless and aimed at distorting Iraqi attitudes and undermining Iraqi policy.

The spokesman said Majed Abdel Rida, an Iraqi communist leader whose arrest was reported by Al-Siyassah, today published an article under his own name in the communist party newspaper Tariq Al-Saba.

Al-Siyassah based its story on reports from "informed travellers," quoting them as also reporting the arrest of eight members of the Iraqi communist party central committee.

Military governor of Madrid assassinated

MADRID, Jan. 3 (R)—Guerrilla gunmen killed the military governor of Madrid outside his home today in the sharpest provocation of Spain's armed forces since the death of Gen. Franco three years ago.

Maj.-Gen. Constantino Ortin Gil, 63, the man in charge of all troops stationed in the capital, was shot down by three bullets fired by two young men standing outside his central Madrid residence.

He was rushed to a nearby hospital but died before surgeons had a chance to operate. The fatal shot hit him in the forehead, according to a hospital statement.

Security forces in the Madrid area were immediately placed on general alert and a special watch was mounted on all road exits from the capital. The alert also went out to Madrid railway stations and the international airport.

Maj.-Gen. Ortin Gil, a married man, was the most prominent military man to be killed by guerrillas since the assassination in 1973 of Gen. Franco's Prime Minister, Admiral Luis Carrero Blanco.

The Basque separatist organisation ETA claimed responsibility for the killing of Admiral Carrero Blanco, whose car was blown up by a bomb placed under a Madrid street.

ETA has also said it was responsible for the killing of five other military men in the past six months, including the adjutant of the Guipuzcoa military governor shot dead in San Sebastian yesterday.

Although nobody claimed responsibility for today's attack, it bore all the hallmarks of an ETA operation.

Four young men wearing anoraks were involved, according to police. Two kept watch outside the governor's home, which is on a busy street running alongside Madrid's central Retiro Park.

Another was in a cafe across the road and the fourth stood by a getaway car.

The two men standing outside the governor's residence opened fire as soon as he climbed out of the official car that had brought him home for lunch. His adjutant and chauffeur were unhurt.

The four ran to the car and sped away after the shots rang out. Spent cartridge cases found at the scene were of a type normally used by ETA, which is fighting for a completely independent Basque country.

Substantial break from previous foreign policy

Parliament accepts Bakhtiar

TEHRAN, Jan. 3 (R)—Former opposition politician Shahpour Bakhtiar was accepted by parliament today as Iran's new prime minister and immediately indicated he wanted the Shah to retain the throne.

Dr. Bakhtiar, asked by the Shah last week to try to form a civilian government to replace the military-led regime and end the country's political and economic crisis, still has to be formally appointed by the monarch—possibly tomorrow.

After his acceptance by the Senate and the Majlis (lower house), he appeared to discount press reports that he had asked the Shah to leave the country to appease the mass protest movement against his rule.

"I did not say that the king will leave. He expressed his desire to rest and leave for a holiday," Dr. Bakhtiar told a press conference. "I hope to be able to reconcile popular inspiration and the legitimacy of the Shah."

A royal palace spokesman later reiterated recent palace statements that "the Shah has no intention of leaving the country except possibly for a holiday, depending on the situation."

The Shah's leading religious opponent, the exiled Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, has said the Shah must leave Iran if law and order is to be restored.

Dr. Bakhtiar told today's press conference he hoped the Ayatollah would now return to Iran "as soon as he can."

But his statements indicated he wanted the Shah to remain, at least as a constitutional monarch.

The holiday mentioned by him and the palace spokesman appeared to be part of an agreement aimed at blunting the anti-Shah movement until Dr. Bakhtiar can restore some political and economic order, foreign diplomats said.

Dr. Bakhtiar indicated he would make substantial break from previous foreign policy in two years.

He said he did not think his government would sell oil to Israel or South Africa. Nor would it continue to be "the gendarme of the Gulf" although it would maintain its own security.

Dr. Bakhtiar described the Central Treaty Organisation alliance as "military dead."

Iran is linked in the Central Treaty Organisation alliance with Britain, Turkey and Pakistan. The United States participates not as a full member.

In Washington, meanwhile, Energy Secretary James Schlesinger said the United States would honour its agreements to provide oil to Israel if supplies to the Jewish state became critical as a result of events in Iran.

Dr. Bakhtiar said he thought Israel should reach agreement with its Arab neighbours, which he noted were Islamic countries like Iran. Asked about possible interference by the Soviet Union in Iran's crisis, Dr. Bakhtiar said his policy was to oppose interference from any quarter.

Dr. Bakhtiar was asked about reports that the United States was planning to send naval vessels to the Gulf as a show of strength while Iran goes through its worst crisis in at least 25 years.

He disclosed in reply that U.S. officials had sounded out his views on the Gulf, the world's most important oil route, three months ago. But he said the problem was exaggerated, adding:

"We have the right to have security in the Gulf..."

"I told the American privately when asked me, and I tell you all, we are going to have our own security but we will not, from now on, be the gendarme of the Persian Gulf. We will defend our coast and our country if it is necessary."

The future premier said his government and the Iranian people were not anti-foreign. He regretted that many foreigners had left Iran in recent weeks, saying he would do all he could to allow useful foreigners to return but to keep out those who were not needed.

Most Iranian cities were quieter today than of late, but reports came in of large-scale violence yesterday in Qazvin, Kermanshah and Dezful. Kermanshah doctors, reached by telephone, spoke of between 10 and 25 people killed in clashes between troops and anti-Shah protesters. Troops imposed a special daytime curfew to remove bodies, the doctors said.

Doctors in Dezful reported 12 people killed in similar incidents yesterday while anti-Shah sympathisers in Qazvin described the town as "looking like it has been bombed."

The military governor of the southern oil province of Khuzestan said today talks with striking petroleum workers about resuming production were continuing.

The official radio quoted Gen. Boghrat Jaffarian as saying that two demands of the workers had been met. They were withdrawal of soldiers sent to the oil installations to guard the personnel and the release of detained workers.

The politically-inspired strike has stopped oil exports from Iran, the world's second largest exporter after Saudi Arabia.

In Los Angeles the Shah's mother was under protective guard in a secret location today after 500 anti-Shah demonstrators stormed the estate where she was staying and started fires in the grounds.

In her 90's, the Shah's mother Tadj El Molouk was moved from the estate under cover of darkness last night after some of the demonstrators threatened to return and burn down the mansion, police said.

The mansion is owned by a sister of the Shah, Princess Shams. His mother arrived there last Friday night from Iran.

A television news station here said the Shah was negotiating to buy a big plot of land in a wealthy part of Los Angeles, but this report could not be confirmed.

In London, the British post office said today it had suspended all airmail services to Iran because of the increasing difficulty of getting aircraft in and out of the country.

A spokesman said surface mail was still being sent and appeared to be reaching its destination but for the time being air mail was being stored in Britain.

Atlantic "Big Four" to discuss key issues

PARIS, Jan. 3 (R)—East-west relations and the turmoil in Iran will be among the key issues when western leaders meet this week on the French West Indian holiday island of Guadeloupe.

At their new-style summit on Friday and Saturday, the Atlantic "big four" will review the restless state of the world from the peaceful vantage point of a Caribbean beach.

At talks in a straw-roofed shelter, U.S. President Carter, French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and British Prime Minister James Callaghan will go over the past year and discuss what lies ahead.

French officials said there would be no fixed agenda, formal decisions or joint communiqué on the meeting, which provides western leaders with a pause for reflection at a time when world events are moving fast.

But topics will certainly include the new diplomatic ties between the U.S. and China—and their implications for Washington's dealings with the Soviet Union.

Equally certain to figure in the talks are the U.S.-Soviet negotiations on a new strategic arms limitation (SALT) agreement and how they affect the defence of Western Europe.

The four leaders will be able to ponder the latest Soviet attitude to a SALT agreement, and whether Moscow is delaying matters because of Washington's recognition of China.

Other topics will include developments in Iran, vitally affecting western economic and strategic interests, unrest in Turkey, peace negotiations between Israel and Egypt, and the guerrilla war in Rhodesia.

The latest oil price rise, energy conservation, and the delay in setting up the new European Monetary System (EMS) are among the most pressing economic issues, although the main accent will be on international politics.

But the Guadeloupe summit, at which each leader will be accompanied by only one senior aide, will not be the place for detailed talks.

"They will be discussing the entire international situation and how it affects their countries over a broad canvas in very relaxed surroundings," a French official said.

Diplomats said the idea for an informal conference of the four leaders, uncumbered by the need to follow an agenda or pro-

monstrators threatened to return and burn down the mansion, police said.

The mansion is owned by a sister of the Shah, Princess Shams. His mother arrived there last Friday night from Iran.

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WORLD NEWS ROUNDUP

Gen. Alexander Haig resigns next June

STEAM, BELGIUM, Jan. 3 (R)—U.S. Gen. Alexander Haig, NATO's supreme commander in Europe, announced today he would resign on June 30. Gen. Haig, who has been rumoured as a possible publican presidential candidate, told a news conference he had no plans at present to go into politics. Gen. Haig, who commands NATO forces from Norway to Turkey, took over from Gen. Andrew Dugan on Dec. 15, 1974. He was chief of staff of the White House in the last weeks of the Nixon presidency.

Chinese media urge sweeping changes

BEIJING, Jan. 3 (R)—A writer in China's main newspaper has advocated sweeping changes which would mean less state control of industry. He was apparently suggesting that industry be operated along Yugoslav lines with workers having almost total say in the running of plants. The suggestions, made in the People's Daily, organ of the communist party, proposed that the state set only a few important quotas and leave enterprises to get on with the job. Enterprises "could decide the form of pay and extra awards to their workers, under a unified state policy. They could raise workers' pay within limits. Enterprises would have certain powers to trade with foreign countries." The writer said that some people misunderstood the country's socialist system and believed all economic activity could be controlled by the state with enterprises given no leeway. The newspaper also threw its support behind the free speech campaign in the country when it said the nation's modernisation plans depended on the people's right to speak out. "Let people say what they wish, the heavens will not fall," the people's daily declared in an editorial.

U.S.-backed radios banned from Moscow Olympics

UESSELDORF, WEST GERMANY, Jan. 3 (R)—The Soviet Olympic Committee does not intend to allow U.S.-backed Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty to report next year's Olympic games in Moscow, Sports Minister Sergei Pavlov told the West German sports news agency S.I.D. today. He said the Munich-based stations employed emissaries working for U.S. intelligence who tried to arouse hatred against the Soviet Union and its communist allies. In the national Olympic committee of the USSR we are categorically against the presence of even one of these stations. Everything will be done to prevent their presence," he said.

By Ian Kellas and Kamei Bant-Hani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, Jan. 2 — "Regional business centre" has recently become one of Amman's favourite epithets. In the past three years, 162 foreign companies have chosen to set up regional headquarters in Amman. But according to officials in the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, about as many companies probably withdrew from Amman last year (1978) as registered here for the first time.

When the Registration of Foreign Companies Law (No. 46) was passed in November 1975, the

government was pleasantly surprised by the response. Twenty-three "regional offices" registered in the first three months and 100 in the following year. But since 1976, the pace has slowed down a bit and there were only 24 registrations in 1977. Although the ministry is not always officially informed when a company withdraws from Amman, one estimate is that 15 businesses moved out last year. That balanced out the 15 which registered before Christmas of 1978.

Law 46 offers attractive terms for companies wanting to set up a base from which to administer their branch offices throughout

(Continued on page 2)



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Jordan's population has trebled in last 20 years

By Ian Kellas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan's population has trebled in the last 20 years. It has been swayed by some of the biggest waves of migration in recent history. At a conservative estimate, it has tripled in size in the past twenty years. And it is still growing at twice as fast as the rest of the world's population.

the last three decades.

And yet the last time a proper census was carried out in the kingdom was 17 years ago. It is important to know how many people are living here in order to be able to plan services for the future. It is also important because Jordan's per capita income (over \$650) has now reached the stage where some international agencies are no longer prepared to give the country special low interest loans. If Jordan can be shown to have a bigger population than was thought, then it might get its loans cheaper.

Everyone in the business admits that be can produce little more than "guesstimates" for Jordan's total population. The official figure produced by the Department of Statistics for the end of 1977 is

just over 2.1 million (East Bank). Most experts feel that if anything that is on the low side. CARE, the American international development agency, have the highest figure with three million.

Mr. Fahad Hiyari, Chief of the Demographic Section at the Department of Statistics, told the Jordan Times that "the 1975 household and agricultural census was used as a base for our present population projections." The 1975 survey was a rough head count, which Mr. Hiyari thinks produced a fairly reliable general figure for the kingdom.

Dr. Alan Hill, the Regional Representative of the Population Council (another non-governmental international agency) comes out with approximately the same total figure of just over 2 million (for the East Bank in mid 1978) using two different methods. One is to project from the 1961 census, and add in the effects of migration—particularly following the 1967 war. The other is to use the total figure for the enrolment of boys in primary school, which is assumed to include nearly all the boys in that age group; using a population model defined by Jordan's birth and death rates, he extrapolates this figure to get the total population. This also comes out at just over the 2 million mark.

Dr. Awad Anani, Under-secretary at the Ministry of Labour, is dissatisfied with the official figure, and feels, like many others, that the 1961 census was an underestimation. He reckons that there are 250,000 Jordanian workers abroad—which is a little below the estimate by the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECA)—and that Jordan could not afford to export so many working people if it only had a population of 2 million. Working

This is the second of a three part series on the population of Jordan

from assumed labour participation rates he arrives at the figure 2.8 million for the East Bank.

CARE believes that even this is too low. Country Director Ralph Montee says that in its small-scale surveys of the villages of northeast Jordan, the agency discovered that there were up to twice as many people living there as there should have been according to the official statistics.

Mr. Montee thinks that the 1961 census missed a lot of people, that the average family size is not 6.6 people but nearer 8, and that the assumption of a stagnant rural population has to be dismissed. Since the rural population accounts for nearly half of the total in the country, he believes that the whole population on the

East Bank must be around 3 million.

In its child health study in 19 north Jordan villages CARE used several sources to assess population: the estimates of village mukhtar's and school teachers, house counts, and extrapolations from the number of primary school and pre-school children. Not all these sources agreed, but an acceptable figure was worked out, and according to Mr. Montee, was

found to be useful in the later provision of services.

According to Dr. Hill, however, no matter how good the sample count, it is very dangerous to generalise from this to get a total population. One fairly reliable method used by biologists is the "recapture" technique. You catch a batch of birds for instance, mark them, and then see how many of them turn up again when you take a second sample. "But no one has yet tried this with Jordanians" Dr. Hill said with a grin.

But what is much more important than the total population figure in some ways is how fast the population is growing. Estimates

for the natural increase rate range from 3.4 per cent per year, according to the Department of Statistics, to an extremely high 4.2 per cent according to Dr. Hill.

The natural increase rate is calculated from the number of births minus the deaths and takes no account of migration. According to Mr. Hiyari, there is now a net 0.9 per cent per annum immigration into Jordan—in spite of the famous "brain drain". A survey of bedouin tribes in the north of the kingdom discovered that large numbers of bedouins from Syria had moved into Jordan and some of them were being recruited into the army. There are also a lot of Egyptian and Pakistani immigrants. The total number of foreign workers in Jordan is now estimated at 80,000.

Whatever the total size of the population may be, there is little doubt that it is now growing at a faster rate than it used to. In the '50s the natural growth rate was probably around 2.8 per cent, reaching 3.2 per cent in 1961. Now it may be as much as 4.2 per cent. One unpublished official source says that the rate will continue at 4 per cent until 1985 and only slow down a little after that until the end of the century.

One important reason for the high natural growth rate is that people are living much longer. According to Dr. Hill the average Jordanian in 1961 could expect to live until he was 49 years old. Now the average life expectancy here is around 66 years.

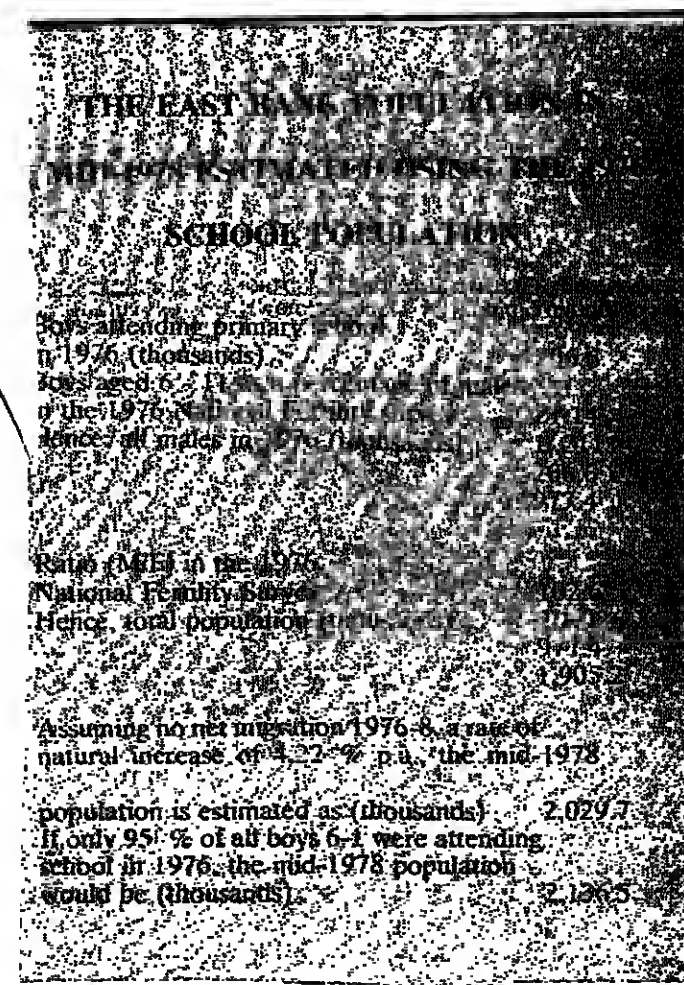
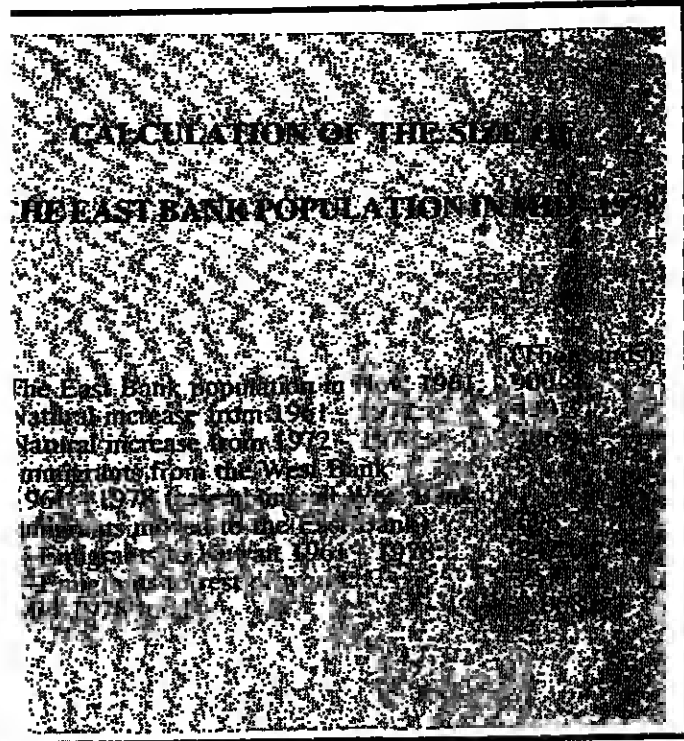
The mortality rate—the number of people who die every year (taken as a ratio of the total population)—has been halved within the last two decades. Infant mortality has fallen even more rapidly. Dr. Hiyari says the official figure for mortality is now 14 per thousand. Dr. Hill puts it a more che-

erful 8.5 per thousand, but reckons that it still has a long way to fall—in Sweden the rate is reportedly about 0.9 per thousand. This means that even if women have fewer babies the population growth rate will stay high for some time.

But women are not having fewer babies. In fact Jordanian mothers are producing about as many children as any known human society throughout history. According to the Department of Statistics, the Total Fertility Rate—which is the closest statistician can get to answering the question: how many children are women having nowadays?—is 6.5. Dr. Hill believes that this figure—worked out from the 1976 fertility survey—is too low. He says Jordanian women, on the average, have eight children.

That is a very remarkable figure. The demographers' favourite theory—the "transition theory"—says basically that societies produce fewer children when they become richer, more urbanised, more educated. In Jordan the opposite has been happening. Admittedly most people think that the fertility rate has reached a peak and it will simply have to come down. But this decline has been delayed a long time considering that Jordan is, relatively speaking, such a highly educated and highly urbanised society. Many other nations in Asia which are far less developed than Jordan have much lower fertility rates. The average American woman only has 1.7 children.

It is that Arabs—or Muslims—behave differently from other people when it comes to family size? And just what implications does this have for Jordan's future development? Some kind of answer will be attempted in the following article.



Hosts of Palestine refugees to meet in Amman

AMMAN, Jan. 3 (JT)—Arab countries hosting Palestine refugees have reportedly agreed in principle to hold a meeting here on Jan. 6. Subjects to be discussed at the meeting, which is to be attended by an Arab League representative, deal with plans by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to reduce its services to the refugees as of next May. The Jordanian government is said to have recently sent to U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim a detailed statement concerning its own stand and that of the Palestine refugees on both sides of the Jordan with regard to UNRWA's plans to reduce its services, outlining the adverse effects which would result from such a reduction.

British embassy announces appointment

AMMAN, Jan. 3 (JT)—The appointment of Mr. Alan Urwick as the new British ambassador to Jordan was officially announced by the embassy here today.

Mr. Urwick, who is 48, is currently minister at the British embassy in Madrid. He has served in Amman before, as first secretary, head of chancery and consul in the 1960s. He has also served in Baghdad and Cairo and has been head of the Near East/North Africa department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London.

He will succeed Mr. John Campbell Moberly, who has been ambassador in Amman since October 1975. Mr. Moberly, who is at present out of the country, will return to Amman to complete his assignment during the second half of this month. Mr. Urwick is expected to arrive in the latter half of February, embassy sources said.

Mr. Moberly is to become assistant under-secretary of state in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office with responsibility for Middle East affairs. In that position, he will succeed Mr. Michael Weir, who is becoming Britain's ambassador in Cairo.

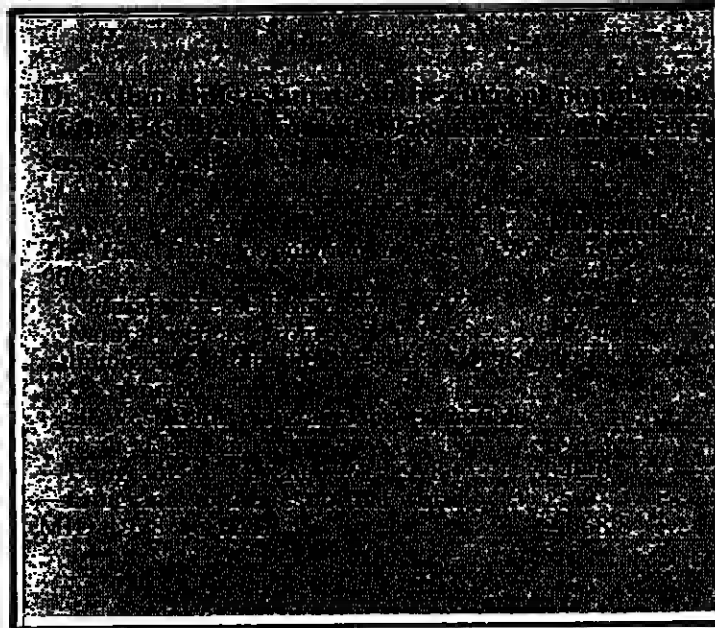
Search is on for the "Plaza Suite"

AMMAN, Jan. 3 (JT)—An urgent search is being launched by the Amman Players, Jordan's local English language theatrical group, and the Hava Arts Centre for a copy of U.S. playwright Neil Simon's "Plaza Suite".

Due to some confusion in the early planning stages for a local production of the play, one thought the other was in possession of a copy, tickets were made, and it turned out that in fact no one actually had a copy.

Now Kitty Ephgrave, leader of the Amman Players and Nabil Sawalha of the Hava Arts Centre are desperately phoning all their friends and acquaintances in the hope of finding "Plaza Suite" tucked away on someone's bookshelf.

The script is needed immediately because the production date has been set for the end of January: so if you think you have it or even if you think you know someone who is likely to have a copy, call Kitty Ephgrave at 65637 or Nabil Sawalha at 65195.



Commerce delegation plans visit to Iraq

AMMAN, Jan. 3 (JNA)—A delegation representing the Federation of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce is to visit Iraq soon at the invitation of the Iraqi Federation of Chambers of Commerce for talks on further promoting trade relations between Iraq and Jordan, it was announced here today. The date of the visit is to be fixed later.

National News Roundup...

Governors hold meetings on the International Year of the Child

AMMAN, Jan. 3 (JNA)—Governors throughout the country today continued meetings with locally formed committees to plan for the International Year of the Child launched by the United Nations at the start of 1979. Under-secretary of the Interior Ministry Ahmad Hindawi said that the committees are discussing ways to raise the level of motherhood and child care centres to increase nursery schools, to help set up exhibitions of children's art work and other means for raising the educational standard of Jordanian children.

Parking allowed on Mahatta Street

AMMAN, Jan. 3 (JNA)—The Traffic Department has decided to once again allow drivers to park their cars for half an hour along Mahatta Street for shopping; however only 30-minute parking will be permitted. Col. Fathi Abu Al Saud, Director of the Traffic Department said owners of premises along the street will not be allowed to park their cars there.

TODAY'S WEATHER

A very cold air mass is approaching the Eastern Mediterranean from East Europe across Greece and Turkey expected to affect Jordan within 24 hours. Clouds will increase gradually with westerly winds freshening. Scattered rain is expected in the afternoon with temperatures decreasing. At the Aqaba Gulf weather will be hazy with southerly fresh winds and rough seas.

Temperatures:	Overnight Minimum	Daytime Maximum
Amman	3	12
Aqaba	7	19
Jordan Valley	8	16
Deserts	3	13

APARTMENT FOR RENT

Consisting of three bedrooms, living room, dining room, built-in wardrobes, two verandas, large kitchen; with central heating.

Location: Shmeisani, near the Jordan Tower Hotel.
For further details please call Tel. 30210

AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

NAME OF COMPANY	Par Value	Volume Traded	Last Selling Price	Closing Price
Jordan Cement Factories	JD 10,000	2,653	1850	13.850
Arab Pharmaceutical Co.	JD 5,000	381	1600	16.600
Housing Bank	JD 1,000	57	1.00	1.150
Jordan-Kuwait Bank	JD 1,000	543	1330	1.810
Jordan-Gulf Bank	JD 1,000	3,610	1030	1.040
Jordan Electricity Co.	JD 1,000	4,182	1330	1.330
Jordan Glass Factories	JD 1,000	307	—	0.750
Arab Aluminium Co.	JD 1,000	360	390	0.900
Jordan Wood Processing Co.	JD 1,000	350	—	0.850
Industrial Development Bank	JD 1,000	62	1250	1.250
Arab International Investment and Trade Co.	JD 5,000	246	—	3.750

Total volume traded, Wednesday, Jan. 3: JD 12,751

Total number of shares traded: 9,270

	Par Value	Number traded	Year of maturity	Selling price
Government Development Bonds	JD 5,000	629	979	5.070
" "	" "	5	980	5.030
" "	" "	20	982	5.010

Total volume traded, JD 3,314

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NEAR HOLIDAY INN — SHMEISANI
Ground floor consists of one bedroom, one reception room, one living room, dining room and accessories. The apartment has veranda, garage, spacious garden, private telephone and central heating system.

For further information please contact Mr. Sami at 25622 all day.

FOR RENT

Well-furnished flat on Jabal Amman, Rainbow Street, consists of two bedrooms, salon, living and dining room, with telephone.

Please contact tel. 24833, Amman

AL BURJ SUPERMARKET

owner Saleh Shuqrat

Announces to house-wives that he opened a section for household utensils in addition to all that the house needs of foodstuff, dairy products and frozen meat and vegetables.

Al Burj Supermarket

Shmeisani, opposite Jordan Tower Hotel

Offers to the elegant lady the most up-to-date cosmetic devices and cosmetic materials.

Al Burj Supermarket answers your orders immediately; only contact tel. 62219.

Handwritten text in Arabic script, likely a signature or note.

An aquatic pest could become your next meal or the pages of your diary

Water weeds: Turning a pest into a resource
A Report from the U.S. National Academy of Sciences

The menace of water weeds is reaching alarming proportions in many parts of the world. Water is an important resource, and aquatic weeds block irrigation canals and pumps, interfere with hydroelectricity production, waste water in evapotranspirations, hinder boat traffic, increase waterborne disease, interfere with fishing, and clog rivers and canals so that floods result.

This is a global problem, but it is particularly severe in tropical nations. In India, large irrigation projects have been rendered useless by plants that block canals, reducing water flow by as much as four-fifths. Farmers in the wet lowlands of Bangladesh annually face disaster when rafts of water hyacinth, weighing up to 300 tons per hectare, are floated over their rice paddies by floodwaters. As the floods recede, the weeds remain on the germinating rice, killing it. Panama Canal engineers have estimated that the canal would be impassable within three years without continuous aquatic weed control.

Aquatic weeds spread water snails that cause schistosomiasis, an insidious, debilitating disease. They also foster malaria and encephalitis, because mosquitoes breed between the floating plants.

Yet, aquatic weeds constitute a free crop of great potential value—a highly productive crop that requires no tillage, fertilizer, seed or cultivation. Aquatic plants have potential as animal feed, human food, soil additives, fuel and wastewater treatment.

Unfortunately there is no simple way to reduce the infestations. Herbicides, and mechanical harvest devices are the only methods used in the developed countries.

Both are expensive, and often almost impossible to use because of difficulties of maintenance and access to remote or swampy areas. Chemicals may also adversely affect the environment, and can interfere with fish production.

This report explores an alternative: the conversion of aquatic weeds to food, fertilizer, paper and fiber, and energy.

A quick-growing fish that lives on plants, the grass carp, whose meat is highly prized, prefers succulent submerged weeds (which are difficult to control by conventional techniques). Although the grass carp is native to cool-water rivers of China, it thrives in warm tropical waters and may attain a weight of over 30 kilograms.

The feeding habit of many tropical fish are barely known. A wide-ranging search for fish that eat plants and algae could locate species with important futures as aquatic weed control agents. Among known species deserving research are Tilapia species. South American silver dollar fish, and the silver carp.

Manatees, almost extinct tropical mammals, are exceptionally proficient at clearing weeds from canals. They eat many kilograms of weeds daily and will consume many different species. Until their breeding in captivity can be developed, they will only be useful in their native Latin American and West African countries, and then only if they are protected and conserved.

Among the least exploited edible freshwater organisms, crayfish, close relatives of the lobster, bring premium prices as gourmet food. In the state of Louisiana, crayfish are farmed on a large scale in rice fields where they feed

on aquatic weeds, small aquatic organisms, and the stubble left after rice has been harvested.

If carefully managed, ducks, geese and swans can clear aquatic weeds from ponds and small waterways. In so doing, they provide meat and eggs. They are particularly promising for small-farmer use in developing countries.

Many other herbivorous animals live on plants, but there has never been a systematic study of how to graze them on aquatic weeds. Animals worth testing include donkeys, pigs and sheep. If carefully managed, water buffalo will feed on aquatic plants, such as water hyacinth.

The wet, often marshy environment where aquatic weeds grow is extremely difficult to harvest; however, some ingenious devices have been developed to do it.

Typically, aquatic weeds contain only five to 15 per cent solid matter. In order to transport or use them in animal feeds or in other products, much of the water must first be removed. Pressing the water out mechanically and removing it by solar drying are two methods under development.

Fertilizer is in critically short supply in many developing countries. Many aquatic weeds contain appreciable quantities of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and other fertilizer ingredients. They benefit crops and improve soil texture.

Fresh aquatic weeds usually have too much moisture to be efficient feed-stuffs. Furthermore, many are not palatable to cattle and sheep. Pressing out some of the water and ensiling the residue is a promising technique. Ensiled water hyacinth and other aquatic weeds have been relished even by

cattle used to high-grade diets. In Romania, pulp and paper are produced on a large scale from aquatic weeds; in other parts of the world, aquatic weeds are used for thatch, furniture, mats, baskets, etc. Papyrus (source of the first paperlike writing materials), cattails, and bulrushes remain neglected but promising resources.

The U.S. space program is fermenting water hyacinth to methane gas. This offers a method by which aquatic weeds could be converted to valuable fuel. Compounds containing nitrogen and phosphorus are common pollutants in waterways. They also happen to be major ingredients in fertilizer. Some aquatic weeds can extract these materials from water and incorporate them into their own structure. These plants can be used to treat sewage so that nutrients are recovered. Experiments are under way to purify municipal sewage, industrial wastewater, and pigfarm and dairy wastewater by growing aquatic plants in them.

Only one aquatic plant is widely used as a food crop: rice. Chinese water chestnut, watercress, and other lesser known species seem worth increased exploitation.

Water hyacinth is one of the most prolific plants on earth. In one experiment, two parent plants produced 30 offspring after 23 days and 1,200 at the end of four months. Stands of 470 tons of water hyacinth per hectare, and weight gains on 4.8 per cent per day have been measured. When grown on sewage effluent, the water hyacinth's productivity can become enormous. Growth rates of the order of 800 kilograms of dry matter per hectare per day have been recorded.

The low level of dry matter has been the major deterrent to the commercial use of harvested aqu-

atic weeds. In order to obtain one ton of dry matter, 10 tons of most aquatic weeds must be harvested and processed; for the water hyacinth 20 tons must be harvested and processed just to get one ton of dry matter.

Aquatic weeds are generally between 10 and 26 percent crude protein (on a dry-matter basis)—a range similar to that found in terrestrial plants. Individual amino acids are present in amounts like those reported for land forages of similar crude-protein content. But the levels of methionine and lysine—generally considered the limiting amino acids in plant proteins—are often lower than in terrestrial crops.

The amount of minerals varies from eight to 30 per cent of the harvest (dry weight), depending on the waterway's chemical content.

The amounts of minerals in aquatic weeds are similar to those in terrestrial plants. However, aquatic plants are often richer in iron, calcium and potassium; some concentrate such minerals to very high levels. The amounts of all minerals can be exceptionally high in plants grown in sewage or agricultural and industrial wastewater.

Aquatic plants are harvested from a site at the water's edge or with a self-propelled, floating harvester. Shoreside harvesting requires that the plants float to the harvester. Rooted species must be uprooted or mowed and then moved to the harvester by boat or by wind and current. Plants can be lifted from the water by hand, crane, mechanical conveyor, or pump.

Mobile harvesters are usually expensive machines that sever, lift and carry plants to the shore. Most are intended for harvesting sub-

merged plants, though some harvest floating plants or the tops of submerged plants. Transporting the plants is difficult and expensive because of their enormous water content. Choppers make the plants much easier to handle and reduce their bulk to less than a fourth of the original volume, greatly simplifying transportation, processing and storage.

Some techniques for harvesting aquatic plants include:

—Hand harvesting may supply enough feed or soil amendment for small farms.

—A rope threaded through cork floats, or a chain of barrels can be used as barriers to retard the spread of water hyacinth.

—A boom across a flowing river can divert floating plants to the shore where they can be harvested. In one system, designed by University of Wisconsin students, many of the weeds are rooted and mechanically mowed, letting them float to the boom.

—A small mowing boat is particularly suited to cutting reeds. Cutter bars for mowing submerged weeds can be attached to small boats. Rakes for pushing the mowed vegetation to shore usually are attached to a second small boat. In the United States, the so-called "Florida airboat," powered by an airplane propeller, can

move equally well over water or weeds.

—A "clamshell" bucket, like a pair of huge jaws suspended from a crane, can pick the plants up and move them to shore. The so-called "hyballer" moves through the weeds, picking hyacinth up and throwing it to shore.

—A tractor-powered mobile harvester mounted on wheels can move water hyacinth and other weeds along a moving belt to shore. These come in a wide range of sizes.

—Finally, flotation shoes, almost as long as skis, permit workers to walk on water, greatly simplifying their work.

Imagine working in a suit like this!



This is Spider, a new British oceanic submersible that can be operated at a depth of 600 metres by a diver after only 20 hours tuition. With a specialist in underwater surveillance can make deep dives for long periods to make his own on-the-spot assessment without the problems associated with the compression and decompression. The glass reinforced polyester resin (GRP) of the 2.2 metre-long Spider provides a lightweight, corrosion resistant, thermally and electrically insulated environment to a depth of 600 metres in sea water. The oxygen concentration and atmospheric pressure are continuously monitored and controlled by the operator. Carbon dioxide is removed from the Spider's atmosphere by means of an electrically powered scrubber re-circulating the air through a chemical absorber. This makes possible 'shirt sleeve' diving for seabed surveying, pipeline inspection and light construction work on the sea floor. The submersible is tethered to a mother ship via an umbilical cable that carries lines for power, communications, an on-board TV camera, data transmission and is used for launch and recovery. In emergencies the cable can be jettisoned along with the ballast weights and the hydraulic power pack. Emergency batteries on board will then take over to provide 72 hours life support. Spider is propelled by six 1 horsepower thrusters—infinitely variable foot controls permitting simultaneous operation of all of them. The operator controls articulated arms that have hydraulically-powered claws with variable grip force. Suction feet lock onto underwater objects to form an anchor and the operator can vary the attitude 4 degrees backwards and 80 degrees nose down from the vertical position. The operator can even select 'autopilot' control to give any desired heading.

Harvesting a pest, a machine devised by the University of Wisconsin students removes unwanted waterweeds to be turned into valuable animal fodder.

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GRAFFITI

IF THE WORLD
IS GETTING
SMALLER,
WHY ARE
POSTAGE STAMPS
GETTING
COSTLIER?

Situation in Iran could cost U.K. millions, says London economic journal

LONDON, Jan. 3 (R) — A London economic journal yesterday forecast British businesses could lose millions of sterling in payments for goods exported to Iran as a result of the disorders there.

Export Direction, which claims a readership of more than 100,000 businessmen, said only a small proportion of the £568 million worth of British goods exported to Iran in the first nine months of 1978 had been paid for.

The main threat to payments for goods already shipped was the widespread burning of bank rec-

ords by anti-Shah demonstrators, which would cause long delays at the very least, Export Direction said, in a report from Tehran.

Military suppliers would not suffer as the Shah would not risk cutting off his arms supplies by defaulting on his payments, it added.

"It will be the hundreds of small fry, with one or two bigger fish, supplying the Iranian market with goods and services, who will suffer the consequences of the chaos, both now and in the future," the journal said.

Television crew catches another UFO on film over New Zealand

WELLINGTON, Jan. 3 (R) — Another unidentified flying object was filmed by a television crew early today over New Zealand.

The object, described by the cameraman as like "an illuminated ping pong ball with a tinge of red in the centre," was filmed in the area of recent UFO sightings off the northeast coast of the south island both in darkness and after sunrise.

The object, said by the television crew to have appeared about 3,300 metres in the sky over the sea, was not seen by an air

force plane which conducted a midnight-to-dawn patrol over the area to investigate the recent sightings.

The Defence Ministry said today its aircraft had concluded that a combination of bright lights from a Japanese fishing fleet and the rising of the planet Venus was a possible explanation for the recent UFO reports.

Television authorities said it was handing over its film to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research for computer analysis.

Reporter Terry Olsen said the crew had seen two objects but had film of only one. Sound recordingist Lloyd McFadden said it was not at its axis and pulsating, while cameraman Cas Kasakaitis said: "It was definitely moving, because we fixed the camera on it and the object moved out of frame."

Mr. Olsen said the second object appeared to flare up suddenly by the side of the first. "It then scudded across the sky." The first object was still visible after the sun had risen — "about twice as bright as the brightest morning star" — and eventually rose into the sky and disappeared, he said.

Possible clues

The reported sightings of UFOs over New Zealand last Sunday might provide clues to the disappearance of the pilot in Australia last October, the young man's father said in Melbourne yesterday.

Frederick Valentich, 20, disappeared while flying a light plane from Melbourne to King Island in Bass Strait. He had reported being huzzed by a strange unidentified craft which travelled at great speed and changed directions quickly during his flight. Seconds later his radio went dead, and a subsequent air and sea search of the area found no trace of him or his aircraft.

His father, Guido Valentich, said he believed his son was taken by a UFO. He said the UFOs filmed by an Australian television crew over New Zealand's Cook Strait, which separates the north and south islands, had given him new hope for his son.

At the time of the Bass Strait incident, Australian Transport Department officials said Frederick Valentich could have been disorientated and, flying upside down, could have mistaken his own reflection in the ocean for the object.

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JAN. 4, 1979

Your HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RICHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: An unusually good day and evening to put in motion whatever new plan of action that interests you. Consult trusted allies to formulate policies for the day ahead.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You are now able to expand where your interests are concerned so that you can enjoy greater abundance in the future.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) First meditate, and then confer with an adviser and know how best to gain your most cherished aims. Be careful with finances.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You are able to gain personal goals with relative ease at this time. Show others that you are outgoing and generous.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Take time to study your vocational and social interests, and then improve on them in some way or other.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Good day to visit new places and new persons so that you can advance in your career. You can add to present prestige now.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Formulate a better plan for handling important business affairs. Be more attentive to loved one. Make sure your diet is right.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get together with your most clever allies and discuss mutual goals. Take no risks where laws and regulations are concerned.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Handle unpleasant tasks early in the day since you can do them quickly and efficiently now. Put your talents to work.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You are able to engage in a new type of recreation, provided you make early plans. Sidelstep a troublemaker.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Take steps to make your home more functional and attractive. Be sure to express yourself well so there's no misunderstanding.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Go to the right sources for the information you need. Make plans of a practical nature that could increase your income.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Put those ideas across that will help you have greater abundance in the future. Follow the advice of experts that can be trusted.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON, (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies against the dollar at the close of inter-bank trading on the London foreign exchange market last night. Tourist rates will differ from those quoted below.

One sterling	2.0240/50	U.S. dollars
One Canadian dollar	83.98/84.01	U.S. cents
One U.S. dollar	1.8475/90	West German marks
	2.0000/0040	Dutch guilders
	1.6440/90	Swiss francs
	29.15/20	Belgian francs
	4.2325/75	French francs
	833.00/835.00	Italian lire
	196.50/70	Japanese yen
	4.3310/30	Swedish crowns
	5.0610/30	Norwegian crowns
	5.1300/1325	Danish crowns

LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market was mixed Wednesday in quiet trading with equities firming largely on technical considerations, dealers said. At 15:00 the F.T. index was up 6.4 to 479.4. Equity leaders firmed as much as 14p following a technical rally sparked by small institutional demand, but government bonds remained weak on fears of a rise in the U.S. discount rate and a concern about the effects of a British truck drivers' strike, dealers added.

Gold shares were dull while U.S. and Canadian issues were slightly higher.

Jordan Times Daily Guide

JORDAN TELEVISION

CHANNEL 3

5:30 Quran
5:45 Cartoons
6:00 Children's programme
6:30 Nancy Drew
7:30 Documentary
8:00 News in Arabic
8:30 Religious series
9:30 Arabic programme
10:15 Arabic film
11:00 News in Arabic

CHANNEL 6

6:30 French programme
7:00 News in French
7:30 News in Hebrew
8:00 Comedy
9:30 The prelude
10:00 News in English
10:15 Movie of the week

RADIO JORDAN

7:00 Sign on
7:30 Morning show
7:30 News Bulletin
7:40 Morning show
10:00 News Bulletin
10:30 Happy Journey
11:00 Sign off
12:00 Sign on and News headlines
12:15 Radiotheque
13:00 News Summary
13:15 Radiotheque

BBC RADIO

14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Music
14:30 Spotlight on Antiquity
15:00 Concert Hour
16:05 Easy Listening
16:30 Old favourites
17:00 Arabian nights
17:30 Radiotheque
18:00 News summary
18:15 Album review
19:00 News Bulletin
19:10 News Reports
19:30 Sign off

VOICE OF AMERICA

19:00 News Roundup
19:30 The Breakfast Show
19:30 News, pop music, features, interviews, questions
19:30 VOA Magazine
20:00 Special English: news, culture, letters, analysis
20:15 Music USA (1st)
21:00 VOA World Report
21:00 News, Correspondents' reports, background features, media comments, analysis

AMMAN AIRPORT

ARRIVALS	DEPARTURES
4:00 Jeddah	6:00 Damascus, Munich, Frankfurt (LH)
6:30 Bangkok, Bahrain	7:00 Damascus
7:00 Cairo (EA)	8:00 Beirut
8:45 Abu Dhabi (GULF)	8:45 Beirut (MEA)
9:15 Kuwait	9:00 Beirut, Athens, Amsterdam (KLM)
9:30 Baghdad	9:15 Cairo (EA)
9:45 Damascus	10:00 Rome
10:00 Dhahran	11:00 New York
10:20 Beirut	11:30 Paris
11:25 Riyadh (BA)	12:00 Geneva, London
11:50 Kuwait (KAC)	12:25 London (BA)
12:40 Riyadh (SDI)	12:30 Athens, Madrid
13:10 Ajlaja	13:45 Kuwait (KAC)
13:40 London, Athens	13:50 Cairo
14:15 Tehran (IR)	14:45 Riyadh (SDI)
15:00 Cairo	15:00 Adabo
15:10 Beirut (MEA)	15:00 Cairo (IR)
15:30 Cairo	19:00 Cairo
21:30 Abu Dhabi, Ras Al Khaima (UAE)	21:30 Kuwait
	24:45 Tehran (IR)

EMERGENCIES

Doctors:	Al Salem (130730)
Amman:	Jacobs (14943)
Musallab Khazneh Kabh (4177)	Al Mahdavi (154531)
Farhan (Qasqash 15600)	Shah (126555)
Isfah:	
Nadhar Al Khatib (1191)	Isfah:
Zargat:	Khatib, letters,
Holman Hiyat (14441)	Zargat:
	Al Athman
	Tadab:
Pharmacies:	
Amman:	Venous (44584)
Nemrakh:	Al Nakh (120391)
Faver (10627)	Hoson Youth City (10273)

CULTURAL CENTRES (Amman)

American Centre	Tel. 41526
British Council	3647-8
French Cultural Centre	7300
Goethe Institute	41903
Swiss Cultural Centre	44215
Spanish Cultural Centre	310-604
Hava Arts Centre	63195
Hoson Youth City	67181
Y.W.C.A.	41708
Y.W.M.C.A.	64781
Amman Municipal Library	36111
University of Jordan Library	55111
Grand Museum	36101
Folklore Museum	36101

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS (Amman)

Amman (government)	Tel. 75111
Civil defence rescue	24301-4
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)	36381-2
Municipal water service (emergency)	37111-3
Police headquarters	39141
Natasha patrol rescue police (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency	21111, 37777
Airport information (ALIA)	52505
Jordan Television	73111
Radio, English Section	74124
Radio, first police	19
Fire headquarters	22901

CULTURAL CENTRES (Damascus)

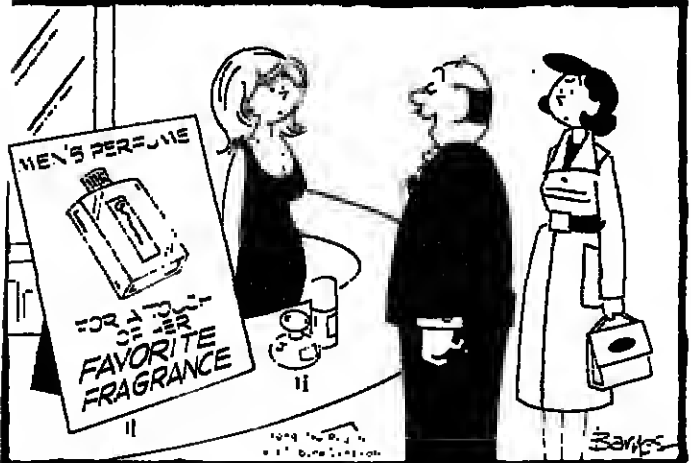
Al Hama Theatre	Tel. 236-444
Al Sha'b Art Gallery	236-577
American Centre	552-362
Arab Cultural Centre	133-777
Bulgarian Cultural Centre	557-401
Brazil Cultural Centre	333-504
Deutsche Demokratische Republik Cultural Centre	333-432
French Cultural Centre	330-604
Kabbala Theatre	222-016
National Museum	114-854
Soviet Cultural Centre	225-450
Spanish Cultural Centre	334-003
Umma Art Gallery	334-619
Zahara Public Library	111-318

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS (Damascus)

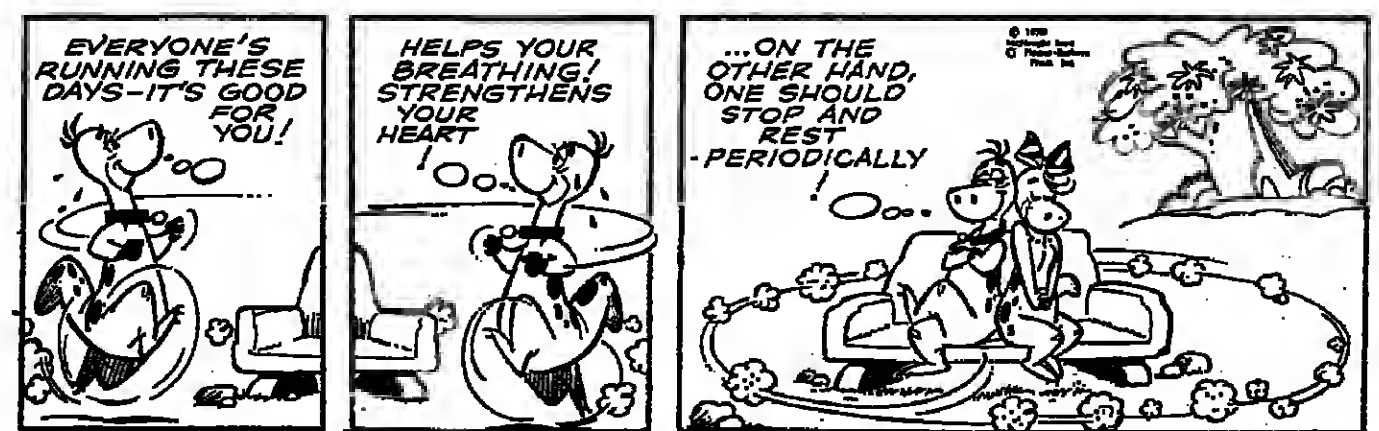
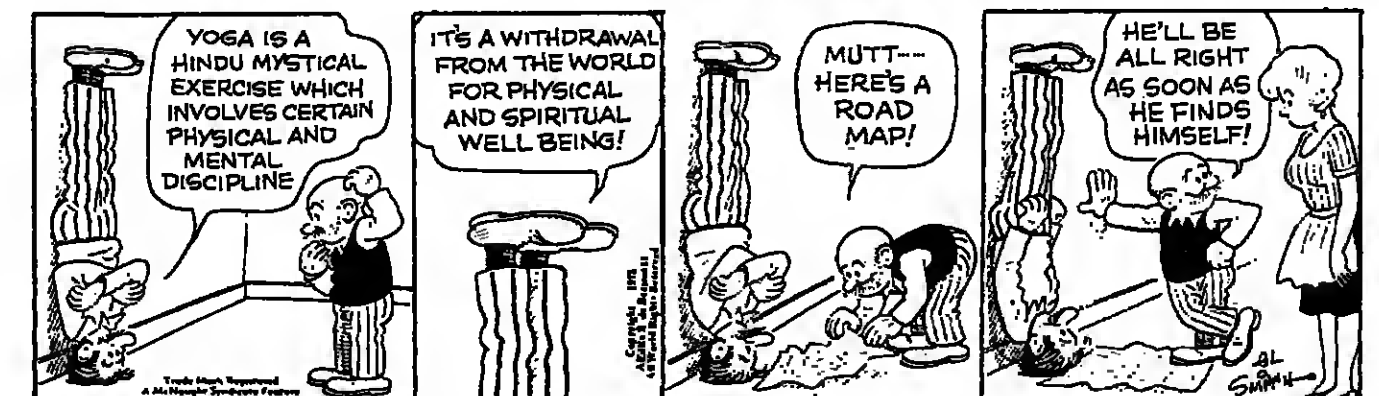
Amman (government)	Tel. 90
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HE BETTER HALF

By Barnes



"Have you any men's perfume that smells like money?"



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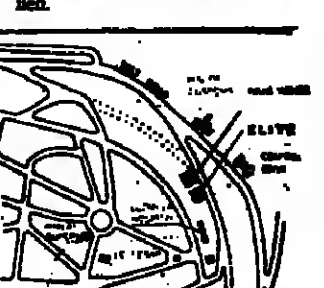
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كلمة من الله

Says OAPC monthly bulletin

Mexican oil reserves could compete with OPEC temporarily

KUWAIT, Jan. 3 (R) — The Kuwait-based Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPC) said today that, although new oil sources in Mexico would serve the interests of oil exporting nations in the long-run, they could in the short-run compete with OPEC crudes in world markets.

In its monthly bulletin, OAPC said: "If the estimate of new Mexican oil reserves (200 billion barrels) are correct it could compete with OPEC oil in the short-run." The bulletin said Mexico's own interests required it should sell its oil at the OPEC price level and not below it, especially since an ultimate shortfall in supplies would develop within a decade.

But "Mexico will sooner or later find that its national oil interests are consistent with those of OPEC and not in competition with them," it added.

The bulletin said: "Speaking in terms of one world, any addition

to world oil reserves would extend their life before ultimate depletion. This coupled with conservation, would extend the breathing space required to develop non-conventional oil substitutes.

"As regards the long-term effect on world markets, it can hardly be expected that Mexico reserves its traditional oil policy since nationalisation in 1938. One of the pillars of such policy was to take a very long view of Mexico's domestic oil requirements before even considering exports or any surplus," OAPC said.

ARAMCO takeover

Meanwhile, the Saudi Arabian

Government is expected to complete its takeover of the Arabian American Oil Company (ARAMCO) by the end of this month, the newspaper Al Medina reported today.

The daily said an agreement would be signed which would lead to the creation of the state-run Saudi Arabian National Oil Company.

It said government ownership of ARAMCO "will not increase the kingdom's revenue, but will give Saudi Arabia full control of its natural oil resources."

Al Medina said the move will preserve "the empire of the American company without weakening it either in the fields of marketing or exploration."

Saudi Arabia acquired 60 per cent of ARAMCO in June, 1974, and two years later a general accord was reached on a complete takeover.

Under approved general principles, the four U.S. companies which comprise ARAMCO would receive compensation for their remaining 40 per cent of the company, as well as an administrative fee for continuing to run production on behalf of the government.



An older patient than most...

This 2,000-year-old Egyptian mummy of first century B.C. priest Anch-Hapi was recently X-rayed at the municipal hospital in Hildesheim, near Hanover, West Germany. Dr. Arne Eggbrecht (right), curator of the town's museum, ordered the layer-by-layer X-ray to learn more about the priest's age and the cause of death.

Radiologists and archaeologists are convinced Anch-Hapi was the father of Nefertiti, whose mummy is on exhibit in Liverpool, England, and further discoveries are awaited. Visitors to the museum will see for themselves an annotated film of the X-ray exposures. (DaD photo)

Search continues for survivors of tanker explosion in Caribbean

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, Jan. 3 (R) — High winds and rough seas hampered rescuers today as they searched for 31 missing crewmen after an American-owned oil tanker exploded and sank in the Caribbean.

A Coast Guard spokesman said the missing men were presumed to have drowned after they jumped from the 3,339-ton Master Michael which went up in flames yesterday halfway between Venezuela and Haiti.

A passing Italian vessel, the Ilici, picked up four members of the crew who swam to safety and the body of a fifth was recovered. The Coast Guard reported.

Survivors told rescuers that the missing men had jumped off the how of the tanker after an explosion near its stern. Some did not have life preservers. The Coast Guard spokesman said the tanker's life boats had been burned

although one life raft may have been launched.

The tanker was registered in Cyprus and owned by the Crossway Navigation Agency of New York City.

Queen Elizabeth cancels visit to Iran

LONDON, Jan. 3 (R) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth has cancelled her planned visit to Iran next month on the advice of the Shah. Buckingham Palace announced today.

The Queen and her husband, Prince Philip, were due to visit the southern Iran naval base of Bandar Abbas and the island of Hormuz on Feb. 28 and March 1 as part of a three-week tour of the Middle East.

The royal couple will be going

ahead with the rest of the tour starting on Feb. 12 with a direct flight to Kuwait.

A statement from Buckingham Palace said: "The Shah and Shahbanu of Iran have indicated their regret that in the present circumstances they would be unable to entertain the Queen as they would wish in Iran. They have accordingly asked Her Majesty to postpone her visit."

"At the same time, they have emphasised how welcome the

TOKYO, Jan. 3 (AP) — China which was castigated recently by Cuban President Fidel Castro for developing "bourgeois ideas," said today that Cuba has become a tool of Soviet "social imperialism." Cuba has never taken an independent road since Mr. Castro's forces overthrew dictator Fulgencio Batista in 1959, the Chinese said.

China's official Hsinhua News Agency, marking the 20th anniversary of the Cuban revolution

on Jan. 1, said the Soviet Union "has stepped up political, economic and military infiltration in Cuba, gradually turning it into a satellite."

The Chinese news agency said in the Horn of Africa, the Soviet Union "first provoked an armed conflict between the two neighbouring countries and then sent in Cuban troops thus escalating the war in the Ogaden region."

"Cuba also played a dirty role in the Soviet-engineered murders of the leaders of two countries at the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula. The Soviet Union's use of Cuba for hegemony also found expression in the subversive role Cuba is playing in the Non-Aligned movement."

"Hegemony" is the Chinese code word for what it calls the Soviet Union's expansionist policies in Asia and Africa.

In an hour-long speech recently, Mr. Castro had lashed out at

the Chinese for normalising relations with the United States. Said Mr. Castro: "If the Chinese Government sold the revolution in exchange for Taiwan, technology and Western credit, Cuba will never change a single one of its principles...not for all the gold of the imperialist countries."

Since the 1970s, Hsinhua said, "The Soviet Union — cunningly using Cuba's position of a weak nation once suffering from colonialist oppression and its historical ties with Africa both in racial origin and culture — has turned Cuba into an agent for sabotage and troublemaking in the Third World and the Non-Aligned movement on the one hand, and a pawn in Soviet expansion in Africa and the Arab world on the other."

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Indian magistrate summons Mrs. Gandhi to appear in court

NEW DELHI, Jan. 3 (R) — Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was yesterday summoned by a magistrate in south India to appear in court on Feb. 3 to answer a complaint that she gave a false address in a bid to register as a voter there.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said the magistrate of Doddaballapur town in Karnataka state turned down her plea to exempt her from court appearances.

The former prime minister, who was returned to Parliament from an electorate in the state before being expelled last month, is alleged to have declared in a court affidavit last June that she was a resident of a Hindu religious rest house in the town. Election rules required that she should be a voter

in the state in order to contest a seat.

Her application for registration as a voter was rejected by the local electoral registration officer after inquiries revealed she was not living in the area.

If convicted, Mrs. Gandhi could receive a one-year prison sentence and be disqualified from contesting elections for five years.

The 61-year-old former premier was released from Delhi's Tihar jail last Tuesday after being imprisoned by Parliament for a week for breach of privilege and contempt of the Lower House in connection with an investigation into her son's business affairs. She was also expelled from Parliament and has announced her decision to run again.

conductors, which enable greater integration of printed circuits on much smaller surfaces.

Thanks to American technology, France's "components plan" — in which Frs. 600m. (133m.) are to be invested in five years — can now get under way, but there is no guarantee that France can catch up with its overseas competitors.

A recent government report predicts that 15,000 of the 90,000 jobs in the French telephone industry will be lost in the conversion to electronic equipment. This forecast is on the basis of estimates prepared by the major companies in the industry — ITT's subsidiary, Compagnie Generale de Construction Telephoniques, and Thomson-C.S.F. Most vulnerable areas will be Paris, where 30,000 telephone workers are employed, and the west and north of France.

These predictions are in flagrant contradiction to the targets set in France's seventh five-year economic plan, which called for the creation of 50,000 new telephone jobs as its goal for 1981.

High productivity in the manufacture of new fully electronic time division switching systems and semi-automatic exchanges, as well as a five per cent reduction in the Post Office's telephone budget, are the explanation for the new pessimistic projection. It takes four times fewer workers to build a fully electronic exchange than an electro-mechanical one.

These agreements were completed by an agreement signed by Motorola, the second biggest U.S. manufacturer of electronic components, with the Societe pour l'Etude et la Fabrication de Circuits Integres Speciaux (EFCIS), a joint subsidiary of the French Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) and Thomson.

This agreement will give the French access to the American licence for metal oxide semi-

conductors, which enable greater integration of printed circuits on much smaller surfaces.

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Prospects improve for 2,300 Viet refugees aboard ship in Philippines

MANILA, Jan. 3 (R) — A glimmer of hope emerged today for 2,300 Vietnamese refugees packed aboard a rusting freighter in Manila Bay.

It came in the form of offers from West Germany, Australia and the United States to help the Philippines tackle the overall problem posed by refugees.

Although none of the three countries said it would take "boat people" direct from the freighter—the Hong Kong-owned Tung An—a United Nations official said he hoped the offers could free places for them ashore.

Werner Blatter, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, said the West German city of Munich had offered to take 150 of the refugees at present crowding a temporary Manila camp. Australia said it would take 200, while U.S. confirmed that refugees in the Philippines, including those aboard the Tung An, were eligible for its programme of offering boat people a new home.

Philippine Foreign Minister Carlos Romulo, who also gave details of foreign offers of help, was ready to take back "with open arms" anyone who changed their mind. He said that 50 had done so in the past year.

Mr. Blatter said he had received new assurances from Manila that

it would not send the vessel back to sea without giving time for refugees from governments asked for help. But he had not persuaded the Philippines to change a decision barring any more refugees from landing because of overcrowding at the temporary camp.

Mr. Blatter's inquiries over the past four days showed that up to 95 per cent of those on board the Tung An were of Chinese origin. About one-third were children and nearly half claimed ties with other countries, including the U.S., Australia, Canada, and France.

In Hong Kong, which faces possible influx of Vietnamese refugees that could top 10,000 an old British Air Force base has been fitted out as a standby transit camp.

In addition, Taiwan told Hong Kong today that it would not accept the 2,700 Vietnamese aboard the Taiwan-owned freighter Hui Feng, which arrived off the coast.

Hong Kong could also be drawn into the Tung An problem following a Philippine warning that the Hong Kong-bound ship could be sent on to the colony if Manila please for aid go unanswered.

"If they are genuine refugees and if this really was the ship's first port of call, we will accept them," a Hong Kong official said.

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KLULS

BIBAR

GANNIA

LEPOC

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: FLORA CROUP TIPOE CORNER
Answer: What an aggressive businessman stoutly pushed forward—HIS "CORPORATION"

THE Daily Crossword by Dorothea C. Shipp

ACROSS

1 Newsman

6 Good

10 Goddess of youth

14 Ms. Luce

15 Mind

16 Mr. Ludwig

17 Prepares

18 Seed coat

19 Glass

20 Flying hero

21 Tireless

23 Maltrait

25 Contribution to the Pope

28 Barrister

29 Caretaker of horses

30 Long, long time

36 Geom. fig.

39 Holy comb.

41 Island

44 Formal mail

45 — qua non

46 Robt. —

47 Calm

48 Height

51 Container of human

57 Withstand

61 Scratch out

62 " — Town"

63 Certain

64 Tournament

66 Maria or Monica

68 Catcher's need

69 Move aimlessly

70 Piqued

71 Rapercus-sion

72 Ogles

73 Gentle slopes

77 Out

78 Cake parts

79 Life in quality: Fr.

82 To laugh: Fr.

83 Doctors' group: abbr.

84 Gas station

85 Perry's creator

87 Stael city

88 106, in Rome

89 Keatsian poem

90 Urfah's family

91 Closes the gap to

92 Essence

93 Sid or Irving

94 Deser

95 Stopovers

96 Belt sounds

97 Bizarre

98 Diagnostic aide

99 European city

100 Worth of note

101 Adam's son

102 Division word

103 Rogers or Clark

104 Blackbird

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56

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Europe hit by coldest weather in years

LONDON, Jan. 3 (R) — Northern Europe struggled to break the icy grip of winter yesterday as more deaths were reported from the continent's coldest weather in years.

At least 23 people have died in Britain, France and West Germany alone since the cold snap plunged much of Europe into a New Year deep freeze.

The latest victims included an eight-year-old French boy who fell through the ice into the flooded pit of a building site, a seven-year-old British boy who died in a similar tragedy, and a 48-year-old vagabond found frozen to death early yesterday in a Paris park.

But in one of the worst-hit areas, north Germany, where five

people died in blizzards, conditions were reported to be easing. The border with Denmark was open again, and a convoy of 40 Danish lorries finally reached home after being stranded for three days at a West German road house.

Private cars were allowed back on most roads of West Germany's northernmost state of Schleswig-Holstein. Army helicopters flew in provisions and ferried out the sick from villages cut off since last weekend.

Across the border to the east, authorities appealed to East German householders to cut down on gas electricity as snow and freezing temperatures paralysed fuel supplies to power stations.

The Yugoslavs, who were rec-

ently making the most of spring-like weather, suddenly had to contend with snow and freezing northerly winds which affected even the temperate Adriatic coast.

Switzerland's so-called "Little Siberia" region of La Brevine, in the Jura Mountains, recorded minus 20 Centigrade the night before as temperatures tumbled from just a few degrees below freezing.

The cold brought a welcome bonus of fresh snow for several Swiss resort areas, which had complained of difficulties due to warm weather before the New Year.

Belgian skiers were out on the sand dunes near Ostend and Dutch skating enthusiasts relished the prospect that Holland's most

spectacular winter sports event — the 11 towns skating race — would be held next week for the first time in 16 years.

The big freeze again hit flights in and out of the two main Paris airports, with airport staff working flat out to keep the runways open.

Britain, like northern and central France, was blanketed by snow. In some areas the temperature dropped to minus 13 Centigrade.

Life was returning to normal in Sweden, where troops and police began digging out hundreds of cars abandoned in deep snowdrifts.

Finland, accustomed to the cold, reported a milder turn in the weather with traffic generally on the move as usual in the absence of heavy snow.

France invests in the future

France is to invest massively in an attempt to catch up with the Americans and the Japanese in computer and electronic technology—even though success may mean fewer jobs in French industry.

splitting French telecommunications from the Post Office, the creation of a Ministry of Communications responsible for computers, satellites, telephones and networks, and also sweeping administrative reforms. None of these proposals figure in the Giscard computer plan.

Although up-to-date figures are not available, France now possesses well over 50,000 computers and is adding new ones at the rate of about 15 per cent each year. Office computers are increasing at a rate of about 13.5 per cent and other types at 20 per cent.

Pony compared with IBM, C.I.I.-Honeywell Bull has launched a big drive to boost exports. When the U.S. Government recently banned the sale of an American Univac computer to the Soviet Tass news agency for the 1980

Moscow Olympic Games, the Franco-American firm immediately offered its own equipment.

The French electronics industry expects its turnover to increase by 15 per cent for 1978, thereby maintaining the rate of growth achieved over the past few years. During the first half of 1978, sales in France of colour television sets rose by 27 per cent and stereo units by 30 per cent.

A major event for the French electronics industry in 1978 was the completion of a programme which the government hopes will enable it to cooperate with the Americans as full-fledged partners.

The General Election in March delayed negotiations aimed at enabling France to catch up with the other major industrial coun-

processing industry.

With access to only 20 per cent of the French market—and only one per cent of the entire world market—C.I.I.'s survival depended on an alliance with U.S.-controlled Honeywell Bull.

French Government subsidies to the firm are scheduled to end in 1980. The new programme means that C.I.I.-Honeywell Bull can now count on massive state orders for the coming decade.

The government says it will give priority to introducing computers in industries where they will help to boost productivity, such as motor cars, machine tools, printing, banks and insurance.

Mr. Giscard has told his ministers that although employment in the computer industry will get a shot in the arm from this new programme, the overall result for the economy will be fewer jobs.

But, ambitious though it is, Mr. Giscard's programme falls short of the targets set by Simon Nora and Alain Minc, two senior technocrats who produced a series of long-term objectives for the French computer industry early in 1978.

The Nora-Minc report, which was drafted at the government's bidding, called for wide-ranging structural changes which involved

PARIS: The French Government is to invest Frs. 2,25bn. (\$495m.) over the next five years in an ambitious programme to develop the use of computers in industry, office equipment, small business firms and data banks.

The programme, which was given the seal of approval by President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and his ministers recently, will involve massive training schemes and publicity to make the French aware of the potential of their computer industry.

Although France has been producing computer specialists for 15 years now, this is the first serious attempt to give related technology a bigger place in the daily life of the ordinary French citizen than in the United States or Japan.

The government programme sets out to introduce mini-computers in secondary school teaching and to give systematic basic instruction in the use of computers to university students.

The programme will be master-minded by a new government agency which will be an off-shoot of the Ministry of Industry's Directorate of Electrical and Electronic Industries (DIEI).

A major slice of the funds available is expected to go to C.I.I.-Honeywell Bull, which was formed three years ago with 47